

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 IO-14 ISO-00 STR-07 STRE-00 AGRE-00
CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-10
INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 CTME-00
AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 SP-02 SOE-02
OMB-01 DOE-11 /129 W
-----058806 101753Z /64

P 101706Z MAR 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7073
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 03811

USMTN

PASS STR (STARKEY) AND USDA (RIESZ)
STR PASS CODEL
ROME PASS COSTIGAN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MTN, ETRD
SUBJECT: ARGENTINE PROPOSALS ON US SANITARY RESTRICTIONS
ON ARGENTINE BEEF EXPORTS

REF: GENEVA 3613

1. MTN DEL RECEIVED MARCH 10 THE PROPOSALS QUOTED BELOW
FROM ARGENTINE MTN DEL CONCERNING ACCESS OF PROCESSED
MEAT (FROZEN, COOKED AND FROZEN CURED COOKED BEEF) AND
UNPROCESSED MEAT (CHILLED AND FROZEN CARCASSES AND BONE-
LESS CHILLED AND FROZEN MEAT CUTS) AS A FOLLOW UP OF
BILATERAL MEETING HELD MARCH 6 (REFTEL). MTN DEL
SUGGESTS A FORMAL RESPONSE BE PREPARED BY USDA ASAP:

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2. QUOTE: PROPOSALS TO INCREASE ACCESS OF CERTAIN
ARGENTINE EXPORTS TO THE U.S. MARKET.

A. FROZEN COOKED BEEF:

THE ARGENTINIAN EXPORTS OF FROZEN COOKED BEEF TO THE US
MARKET ARE BEING LIMITED AS A RESULT OF A TECHNICAL RE-

QUIREMENT ESTABLISHED BY APHIS TO ALLOW A TEST ON THE ABSENCE OF "PINK JUICE" IN SUCH PRODUCT.

ACCORDING TO APHIS THIS TEST SHOULD BE PERFORMED ON A PIECE OF BEEF NOT SMALLER THAN 1.1/2 INCH BY SIDE OR ITS EQUIVALENT.

THIS TECHNICAL REQUIREMENT HAS MADE UP TO NOW IMPOSSIBLE THE ENTRY INTO THE US MARKET OF ARGENTINE COOKED "STEAKS", "GROUND MEAT" AND "HAMBURGERS", WHICH HAVE A LARGE POTENTIAL DEMAND IN THE AMERICAN MARKET. AS A CONSEQUENCE, OUR POSSIBILITIES OF IMPROVING ACCESS FOR FROZEN COOKED BEEF PRESENTATIONS AS A WHOLE ARE CONSIDERABLY REDUCED.

IN ORDER TO CONFORM WITH APHIS AUTHORITIES REQUIREMENT AND TO ALLOW THEM TO PERFORM THE ABOVE MENTIONED TEST, WE PROPOSE THE APPROVAL OF ONE OF THE TWO FOLLOWING ALTERNATIVES RELATED TO THE PIECES OF BEEF TO BE TESTED:

ALTERNATIVE A)

TO TAKE AS TESTING UNIT SUCH A NUMBER OF SLICES OF COOKED FROZEN "STEAKS" OR OF "HAMBURGERS" OR OF A PORTION OF "GROUND BEEF" EQUIVALENT TO THE MINIMUM REQUIRED IN ORDER TO DETERMINE THE ABSENCE OF "PINK JUICE".

ALTERNATIVE B)

TO PERFORM THE TEST ON A "WITNESS" PIECE OF BEEF FULLY UNCLASSIFIED

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FILLING THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS, WHICH HAS BEEN PACKED AND COOKED TOGETHER WITH THE PRINCIPAL PORTION OF BEEF - "SLICED", "GROUND" OR "HAMBURGER" - AND WILL PERMIT TO DEMONSTRATE THE ABSENCE OF "PINK JUICE".

B. FROZEN CURED COOKED BEEF:

THE DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED BY THE CURED FROZEN BEEF ARISE FROM ITS PINK COLOR, WHICH MAKES IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE ITS DEGREE OF COOKING IN THE SAME MANNER AS IN THE CASE OF UNCURED FROZEN BEEF.

IN ORDER TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM AND WITHOUT PREJUDICE OF THE NEW TECHNIQUES THAT AT PRESENT ARE BEING DEVELOPED IN LABORATORIES, WE THINK THAT THE COOKING DEGREE OF CURED BEEF CAN BE DETERMINED BY APPLYING THE SAME PROCEDURE AS PROPOSED IN THE CASE OF UNCURED COOKED BEEF.

FOR THAT PURPOSE, IT WILL BE ENOUGH TO PUT INTO THE SAME TUBE ONE PIECE OF UNCURED BEEF - TIGHTLY ISOATED AND CONFORMING TO THE MINIMUM SIZE REQUIREMENTS - AND TO COOK THE TUBE IN THE ORDINARY WAY TO SHOW THE ABSENCE

OF "PINK JUICE".

THIS PROCEDURE HAS BEEN TESTED IN ARGENTINA AND HAS
PROVED TO BE COMPLETELY SAFE.

C. THE ARGENTINE DELEGATION IS PERSUADED THAT THE
PROPOSALS SUBMITTED HEREIN SHOULD NOT ENCOUNTER ANY
DIFFICULTY AT ALL TO BE ACCEPTED SINCE THEY ARE BASED
ON THE SAME PRINCIPLE RECOGNIZED AND APPLIED BY THE
US AUTHORITIES.

WE SHOULD LIKE TO INVITE THE ATTENTION OF THE US DELE-
GATION THAT SHOULD THIS BE THE CASE, AS WE ARE CONFIDENT

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IT WILL, THE ARGENTINE EXPORTS TO THE US MARKET WILL
INCLUDE IN A NEAR FUTURE NEW ITEMS, AND THIS DIVERSI-
FICATION SHOULD EFFECTIVELY CONTRIBUTE TO SOLVE THE
SECULAR DEFICIT OF OUR BALANCE OF PAYMENTS WITH THE
UNITED STATES.

3. PROPOSALS ON SANITARY ASPECTS OF THE ARGENTINE MEAT-
EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES

A. DISEASE FREE ZONE - REQUEST FOR RECOGNITION OF THEIR
EXISTENCE

THE PORTION OF THE ARGENTINE TERRITORY FROM PARALELL 42 DEGREES TO THE SOUTH, COMPRISING THE PROVINCES OF CHUBUT, SANTA CRUZ AND TIERRA DEL FUEGO, MEETS ALL THE SANITARY REQUISITES TO BE CONSIDERED A "DISEASE FREE ZONE".

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SUCH RECOGNITION HAS BEEN GIVEN BY THE TECHNICAL VETERINARY COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY (EEC), ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE INTERNATIONAL EPIZOOTICS OFFICE AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE.

THEREFORE, WE THINK IT IS FAIR TO REQUEST THE UNITED STATES TO GIVE THE SAME RECOGNITION TO THE ABOVE MENTIONED "DISEASE FREE ZONE" OF ARGENTINA, MAKING THE NECESSARY ADJUSTMENTS IN THE SANITARY REGULATIONS TO ALLOW THE IMPORTS OF UNPROCESSED MEAT (CHILLED AND FROZEN) COMING FROM SUCH ZONE.

IN THIS CONNECTION IT IS USEFUL TO POINT OUT THAT OUR MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE IS PUTTING INTO OPERATION AN INTENSIVE PLAN TO ENLARGE THE PRESENT ARGENTINE "DISEASE FREE ZONE", EXTENDING IT TO THE NORTH OF PARALELL 42 DEGREES.

B. BONELESS CHILLED AND FROZEN MEAT CUTS, PREPARED UNDER VETERINARY AND HYGIENIC CONTROL AND TRANSPORTED IN CONTAINERS, FOR TABLE CONSUMPTION, MANUFACTURING PURPOSES OR SHIPPING SUPPLIES. ACCESS IS REQUESTED.

THE POSITIVE EXPERIENCE DEMONSTRATED DURING THE LAST 10 YEARS BY THE EXPORTATION OF ARGENTINE CHILLED AND FROZEN BEEF CUTS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM, - COUNTRY WHICH MAINTAINS ITS STATUS OF "FREE DISEASE AREA" INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED - ALLOWS US TO REQUEST THE UNITED STATES TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO THEIR TERRITORY FOR ARGENTINE BONELESS CHILLED AND FROZEN CUTS, PREPARED UNDER STRICT

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VETERINARY AND HYGIENIC CONTROL AND TRANSPORTED IN CONTAINERS, FOR TABLE CONSUMPTION, MANUFACTURING PURPOSES OR SHIPPING SUPPLIES.

THE ABOVE MENTIONED BRITISH EXPERIENCE WITH THEIR IM-
PORTANT TRADE IN ARGENTINE BONELESS CUTS IS A DEFINITE
DEMONSTRATION OF THE COMPLETE ELIMINATION OF THE
"POTENTIAL RISK", THROUGH STRICT VETERINARY AND HYGIENIC
CONTROL AND A VERY CLOSE LIAISON OF THE ARGENTINE AND
BRITISH HEALTH SERVICES.

FURTHERMORE, THE PRESENT STRUCTURES OF CONTAINERS SHOULD
AVOID ANY RISK EMERGING FROM THEIR HANDLING, UNLOADING
OR UTILIZATION. UNQUOTE.

4. DRAFTED BY SWAIN. CULBERT

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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